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96-17

14 March 1996

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MAR 15 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION,

Attn.: Docket PP 967,  
1919 "M" Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Sirs:

I am an attorney duly admitted to practise before your honorable Commission. Thru error my office misaddressed an Express Mail envelope containing Reply Comments to DOCKET PP 967, addressing it to RM8763. Because of the error, I faxed you a correction today.

However, in the event that the error was not caught nor corrected, I am Express Mailing you this set of duplicate Reply Comments for the Commission's consideration with regard to DOCKET PP 967.

I hope that has not caused any inconvenience; and thank you for the courtesy extended me.

Very truly yours,

*Karl A. Kopetzky*

djm:KAK

Karl A. Kopetzky

enc.

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
Docket PP 96-17

( Reply Comments  
( With Specific Regard  
( Solely To The  
( Amateur Radio Service

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## INTRODUCTION

The comments and remedial requests contained herein with regard to the above Docket PP 96-17 are offered by KARL A. KOPETZKY, of 3619 N. Lamon Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, a continually licensed amateur radio operator, Advanced Class, and an amateur radio station owner for about 75 years, his first license having been issued him was signed by Herbert Hoover, the then Secretary of Commerce. Kopetzky has held his FCC-assigned, station call-letters, K9AQJ, in excess of 40 years. Additionally, he is an attorney who has been duly admitted to practise before your honorable Commission for in excess of 25 years; and a formerly licensed "Professional (Electronic) Engineer (PE) in the states of Illinois and California since 1945.

## THE ABOVE DOCKET PP 96-17 ASKS:

1. "What FCC (Amateur Radio Service) Rules are... irrelevant?"

A. The Amateur Radio Service Rules define that Service's Purpose in FCC Rule 91.1(d) as an:

"(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts."

REPLY COMMENT. The above "Purpose" is today totally nonrealistic, untrue and nonexistant. It is virtually impossible for anyone to be an "electronic expert," considering the magnitude the electronic field encompasses today. One might be an "expert" in some phases of electronics, but never the entire discipline, i.e. "an electronic expert."

Additionally, electronics have advanced so far, that only a miniscule number of amateur radio operators have any educated, electronic information of even how their own station equipment operates. They pass the electronic, technical tests for their licenses by memorizing answers from widely published question/answer pools; and reply to the license questions parrot-like when they appear for their license examinations.

As a result, it is a fact that:

(1) The Amateur Radio Service no longer provides trained operators. They're "appliance" operators, designing or building little, and buying their radio station equipment ready-made; then operating it mostly "by rote." Few acquire any real skills in electronics or operations.

(2). A tiny, almost negligible, miniscule number of amateur radio operators become truly skilled, electronic "technicians." Those that

do, usually end up in commercial industries, disciplines and fields.

(3). The amateur radio operators do not, and have not for a considerable number of years provided a reservoir of "electronic experts." There are operators who cannot even read a schematic and yet are licensed. To define the service as providing a reservoir of "electronic experts" is either ridiculous or wishful thinking in view of the actual, existing facts to the contrary.

(4). And the continued maintenance of this "fiction" gives rise to all manner special Rules, special favors and aggrandizement by the FCC and the Congress for which there really is no foundation or reason. And all of this ultimately acts to impair the integrity of the amateur radio service.

REPLY REQUEST. Because it is no longer true or valid, FCC Rule 97.1(d) should be deleted. A substitute, FCC definition of today's amateur radio service is suggested in the "REPLY REQUEST" at the end of Sect.B following.

B. The Amateur Radio Service Rules further define that Service's Purpose in FCC Rule 97.1(a) as in:

"(a) Recognition...of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

REPLY COMMENT. The above alleged purpose has become the basis for a host of special, extraordinary provisions; special laws and especial favorite treatment from both the FCC and the Congress. All this, when the actual number of amateur radio operators at any one emergency is possibly less than five one-thousandth of 1 percent (0.005%) of the total number of licensed operators today!

With today's wide-spread numbers of CBs; cellular telephones; police and fire departments; the Red Cross; taxi radios; special commercial radios together with a host of other radio services nearly all readily available in any emergency, the amateur radio service in emergencies has continually declined to where it is really no longer anything but an "extra" in such situations.

Yet the FCC at the continual bombasting by special interests, the American Radio Relay League and others have managed nicely to disguise how very little emergency work is actually performed by the rank and file of the amateurs.

The special interests have hyped the performance of those few amateurs who voluntarily do emergency and community work 'way beyond what those services have actually consisted of. That is not to say that such services have not been valuable. Only that their alleged value has been exploited in exchange for special favors, special laws and also for political gain, all far beyond reason or their intrinsic, community or emergency value.

REPLY REQUEST. FCC RULE 97.1(a) should be eliminated as no longer valid; and because it no longer serves any concomitant, useful purpose.

In its place, the following Rule should be adopted.

"(a) The amateur radio service is essentially a personal hobby, some of whose members occasionally perform valuable, voluntary, community work and/or engage in valuable, voluntary, emergency operations where needed and authorized."

THE ABOVE DOCKET PP 96-17 ASKS:

2. "How could the FCC reduce the amount of paper work it requires?"

REPLY COMMENT. One cannot file any document in a Court, with a State, County, City Clerk or Treasurer, without paying an accompanying fee. So there is no reason why one should be able to file a Petition with the FCC without also paying an accompanying fee.

One way to reduce the paper work, would be to charge a \$100 fee to file a petition in the amateur radio service. That would tend to eliminate foolish, irresponsible, nonsensical and trifling petitions which cause the FCC work to reply and add to its paper work, all uselessly.

REPLY REQUEST. The FCC should charge a \$100 fee to file any petition in the amateur radio service. This is in keeping with OBRA '93 that the FCC find ways to be defray its costs for whatever services it performs.

THE ABOVE DOCKET PP 96-17 ASKS:

3. "What FCC operations have serious delays that result in ... other adverse impacts?"

REPLY COMMENT. Of late, the FCC has continued to balkanize the amateur radio frequencies in response to special interests petitioning therefore. This has usually lead to a plethora of comments and replies, pro and con being filed that then take up the time of the FCC to reply and serve to increase its paper work as well.

The FCC should cease such balkanizing, and make it a Rule that no further special interests or modes would be accomodated. So long as the signals remained less than 2.5kHz in frequency width (amateur TV excepted) and within the frequency band boundaries, no application to the FCC for specially assigned, exclusive frequencies should be accepted.

REPLY REQUEST. The FCC should cease balkanizing the amateur radio service frequencies in response to what are essentially only requests by special interests.

The FCC should unequivocally state that except as already balkanzized today, further balkanization of the amateur radio service frequencies is contraindicated and will not be enacted.

The FCC should enact a Rule that:

"Except as prohibited elsewhere in its Rules, any legitimate mode meeting good engineering practises and an operating frequency width not in excess of 2.5kHz, amateur TV excepted, is acceptable and authorized without sny application to the FCC."

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karl A. Kopetzky".

Dated. 12 March 1996

Karl A. Kopetzky, K9AQJ.